

FINAL

The Traffic Committee meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Lower Level Conference Room at Troy City Hall on October 15, 2003 by Jan Hubbell.

1. Roll Call

PRESENT: Ryan Deel
John Diefenbaker
Ted Halsey
Jan Hubbell

ABSENT: Richard Kilmer
Charles Solis
Thomas Sawyer, Jr.
Kaveri Korgavkar, Student Rep.

Also present: John Abraham, Traffic Engineer
Lt. Scott McWilliams, Police Department
Lt. Robert Matlick, Fire Department

and Item 3 Dennis Torpey, 12830 Rattalee Lake Rd., Davisburg

Item 6 Request for Sidewalk Waiver – 6850 Adams
Paul Padiar, 1000 W. Maple Rd.
Ramarao V. Cherukur, 5448 Crispinway, W. Bloomfield

Item 7 Bruce Bloomingdale, 4264 Tallman

Resolution #TC-2003-10-011

Motion by Diefenbaker
Seconded by Deel

To excuse Mr. Kilmer and Mr. Solis as they are out of the City.

YEAS: All-4

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Kilmer
Solis
Sawyer

MOTION CARRIED

2. Minutes – September 17, 2003**Resolution #TC-2003-09-012**

Motion by Halsey

Seconded by Diefenbaker

To approve the September 17, 2003 minutes as printed.

YEAS: All-4

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Kilmer
Solis
Sawyer

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC HEARINGS**3. Request for Sidewalk Waiver – 3330 Rochester Road and Torpey**

This item was first heard at the September 17 meeting. At that time there was no majority vote and the committee asked for a postponement until the October meeting.

Dennis M. Torpey is requesting a waiver for the sidewalk at 3330 Rochester Road and Torpey. The sidewalk ordinance requires that sidewalk be installed in conjunction with the development of this parcel due to a recent lot split, combined and replatted. The Public Works Department recommends denial of this waiver request. Petitioner has signed an "Agreement for Irrevocable Petition for Sidewalks."

Petitioner states that there are no other sidewalks in the area, the sidewalk would lead nowhere and connect to nothing; the existing ditch would have to be filled, and it would not be feasible to move or alter the storm drain/catch basins in their present location.

Mr. Torpey stated that there is no sidewalk on Torpey now and the cost to install a sidewalk there is very high. He said that the sidewalk would lead nowhere and therefore is not warranted. Installation of a sidewalk would require the drainage in the area to be reworked as there are currently ditches and catch basins where the sidewalk would be required. He stated that he has met all of the requirements for sidewalk waiver.

An email from a resident was received by the Traffic Engineering office stating that the sidewalk waiver should be denied. There is a school at the end of the street and the children's safety should be a high priority.

Another resident, James Whiteford of 1075 Torpey Drive, sent a letter to Dr. Abraham stating his opposition to the waiver because of his concern for the safety of students walking to Baker Middle School.

The public hearing was declared open.

Mr. Torpey reiterated his position as stated at the September meeting. He also brought some old aerial photos showing that there used to be an asphalt walkway on the south side of Torpey. He illustrated that the proposed sidewalk on the north side of the street would dead end right at a fire hydrant. There is more space on the south side of Torpey, and he maintains that if a sidewalk is needed, it should be on the south side.

The public hearing was declared closed.

Resolution #TC-2003-09-013

Motion by Halsey

Seconded by Diefenbaker

1. WHEREAS, City of Troy Ordinances, Chapter 34, Section 8(D) allows the Traffic Committee to grant temporary waivers of the City of Troy Design Standards for Sidewalks upon a demonstration of necessity; and

WHEREAS, Dennis M. Torpey has requested a temporary waiver of the requirement to construct a sidewalk on the property because there are no other sidewalks in the area, the sidewalk would lead nowhere and connect to nothing; the existing ditch would have to be filled, and it would not be feasible to move or alter the storm drain/catch basins in their present location.

WHEREAS, THE Traffic Committee has determined the following:

- a. A variance will not impair the public health, safety or general welfare of the inhabitants of the City and will not unreasonably diminish or impair established property values within the surrounding area, and
- b. A strict application of the requirements to construct a sidewalk would result in practical difficulties to, or undue hardship upon, the owners, and
- c. The construction of a new sidewalk on the property line would lead nowhere and connect to no other walk, and thus will not serve the purpose of a pedestrian travel-way.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Traffic Committee grants a two-year waiver of the sidewalk requirement for the property at 3330 Rochester Road and Torpey, which is owned by Dennis M. Torpey.

YEAS: 3

NAYS: 1 (Deel)

ABSENT: Kilmer
Solis
Sawyer

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION 2003-10-014

Motion by Halsey
Seconded by Deel

To take Item 6 out of order.

YEAS: All-4

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: Kilmer
Solis
Sawyer

6. Request for Sidewalk Waiver – 6850 Adams

Paul Padiar, on behalf of Bharatiya Temple, is requesting a waiver for the sidewalk at 6850 Adams. The sidewalk ordinance requires that sidewalk be installed in conjunction with the development of this parcel due to a recent lot split, combined and replatted. The Public Works Department recommends denial of this waiver request. Petitioner has signed an "Agreement for Irrevocable Petition for Sidewalks." Petitioner states that there are no other sidewalks in the area, the sidewalk would lead nowhere and connect to nothing.

The public hearing was declared open.

Mr. Padiar said that there are currently no sidewalks on Adams, the right of way is only 33 feet and there is a detention basin in the way. The temple has expanded hit parking lot and is adding a new South Boulevard access.

The public hearing was declared closed.

Dr. Abraham said that the Planning Commission required connection of the interior sidewalks. There have been complaints about members parking on Adams, which will be less of a problem with the new parking lot.

Resolution #TC-2003-09-015

Motion by Halsey

Seconded by Diefenbaker

1. WHEREAS, City of Troy Ordinances, Chapter 34, Section 8(D) allows the Traffic Committee to grant temporary waivers of the City of Troy Design Standards for Sidewalks upon a demonstration of necessity; and

WHEREAS, Bharatiya Temple has requested a temporary waiver of the requirement to construct a sidewalk on the property because the area is already developed with no other sidewalks in the area, the sidewalk would lead nowhere and connect to nothing, and there are ditches on both streets,

WHEREAS, THE Traffic Committee has determined the following:

- a. A variance will not impair the public health, safety or general welfare of the inhabitants of the City and will not unreasonably diminish or impair established property values within the surrounding area, and
- b. A strict application of the requirements to construct a sidewalk would result in practical difficulties to, or undue hardship upon, the owners, and
- c. The construction of a new sidewalk on the property line would lead nowhere and connect to no other walk, and thus will not serve the purpose of a pedestrian travel-way.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Traffic Committee grants a two-year waiver of the sidewalk requirement for the property at 6850 Adams Road, which is owned by Bharatiya Temple.

4. Request for Sidewalk Waiver – 143 Evaline

Michael Johnson is requesting a waiver for the sidewalk at 143 Evaline. The sidewalk ordinance requires that sidewalk be installed in conjunction with the development of this parcel due to a recent lot split, combined and replatted. The Public Works Department recommends denial of this waiver request. Petitioner has signed an "Agreement for Irrevocable Petition for Sidewalks."

Petitioner states that there are no other sidewalks in the area, the sidewalk would lead nowhere and connect to nothing.

It should be noted that six other parcels on the same street were granted sidewalk waivers in the recent past. The Traffic Committee questions whether sidewalks should be required as the street becomes fully developed.

Motion by Halsey

To grant a two-year waiver to the sidewalk requirements at 143 Evaline.

There was no support for the motion.

MOTION FAILED

Mr. Halsey said if Mr. Johnson plans further building, sidewalks should be installed. The Committee wants to hear Mr. Johnson's future plans, and chose not to make a decision until Mr. Johnson appears to address the committee.

RESOLUTION 2003-10-16

Motion by Halsey

Seconded by Deel

To postpone voting on this issue until Mr. Johnson attends the Traffic Committee meeting.

YEAS: All-4

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: Kilmer
Solis
Sawyer

5. Request for Sidewalk Waiver – 6728 Eckerman

Michael Johnson is requesting a waiver for the sidewalk at 6728 Eckerman. The sidewalk ordinance requires that sidewalk be installed in conjunction with the development of this parcel due to a recent lot split, combined and replatted. The Public Works Department recommends denial of this waiver request. Petitioner has signed an "Agreement for Irrevocable Petition for Sidewalks." Petitioner states that there are no other sidewalks in the area, the sidewalk would lead nowhere and connect to nothing.

The Traffic Committee questions whether sidewalks should be required as the street becomes fully developed. Mr. Halsey said if Mr. Johnson plans further building, sidewalks should be installed. They want to hear Mr. Johnson's future plans, and chose not to make a decision until Mr. Johnson appears to address the committee.

RESOLUTION 2003-10-17

Motion by Halsey

Seconded by Deel

To postpone voting on this issue until Mr. Johnson attends the Traffic Committee meeting.

YEAS: All-4

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: Kilmer
Solis
Sawyer

REGULAR BUSINESS

5. Change YIELD Sign to STOP Sign on Leetonia at Tallman

Bruce Bloomingdale, 4264 Tallman, has requested a STOP sign instead of a YIELD sign on Leetonia at Tallman. He feels that motorists speed on Leetonia, and since there are no sidewalks, it is especially dangerous for pedestrians. He also believes that motorists cut through the subdivision from Livernois to Leetonia, to Tallman, to Longfellow, to Rochester.

The intersection of Leetonia and Tallman is a 3-way "T" intersection with Leetonia ending at Tallman, and there are only five houses on the south end of the "T." Eastbound Leetonia to northbound Tallman carry the majority of the traffic. There are no significant sight obstructions at the intersection.

It should be noted that STOP signs are not speed control devices. Unwarranted signs may dilute the credibility of existing signs and increase violations as motorists try to "make up" for lost time at STOP signs.

Traffic counts indicate that 301 vehicles per day approach the intersection on Leetonia, and 443 per day on Tallman. The usual range of traffic volumes on Troy residential roads is between 300 to 5000 vehicles per day. Traffic volumes on Leetonia and Tallman are low when compared to an average residential street.

The Traffic Engineer has sent Mr. Bloomingdale our brochure on the Neighborhood Traffic Harmonization Program.

Mr. Bloomingdale told the committee that there are no sidewalks on Leetonia, and he is afraid to walk in the neighborhood because of speeding vehicles. In addition, drivers on Leetonia seem to think that all southbound Tallman traffic will turn right onto Leetonia. However, there are homes on Tallman, south of Leetonia, and residents going straight through the intersection have the right of way, causing conflicts.

Mr. Bloomingdale pointed out that the intersection of Randall and Tallman is STOP controlled. He would also like to see STOP signs halfway down Leetonia to slow traffic. Dr. Abraham pointed out that STOP signs are used at intersections to assign right of way, and should not be used mid-block.

Mr. Bloomingdale brought a letter to the meeting from Connie Irby, his neighbor at 4278 Tallman. She has had many close calls while trying to back out of her driveway because of drivers whipping around the corner from Leetonia to Tallman. Children also walk along Leetonia to Tallman to reach Leonard Elementary School.

RESOLUTION #TC2003-10-18

Motion by Halsey

Seconded by Diefenbaker

To recommend installation of a STOP sign in place of the current YIELD sign on Leetonia at Tallman.

YEAS: All-4

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Kilmer
Solis
Sawyer

MOTION CARRIED

10. Visitors' Time

No one appeared to address the Committee on items not on the agenda.

11. Other Business

12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2003.

SIGNED: _____
Jan Hubbell, Vice-Chair